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prefatory note. These guesses have been compared with the results of the census and in every case but one in 1890 or 1900 the directory estimate was found too large. In two-thirds of the cases the directory was over 10 per cent and in nearly one-third it was over 20 per cent in excess of the census count. Probably directory publishers as a class tend to include year by year a larger proportion of the city's population. Probably also a larger proportion of the city's business population is coming to reside in suburbs and thus a directory count of the business population is becoming a less accurate index of the resident population reported by the census.

As a basis for estimating the population of a city the vote cast is little, if any, better than the directory count. In Albany, Columbus and Dayton, there were less than four persons to a vote at the last presidential election; in Fall River there were more than 9 persons to each vote and in Atlanta more than 17.

The school census if accurate is better than any of the other three methods examined. But it is so frequently inaccurate that the method can seldom if ever be used with confidence.

It is now recognized that counting is more accurate than guessing, and for that reason it has supplanted the simple and cheaper method in almost universal use a century ago. The first step away from simple guessing was to count some unit such as inhabited houses, deaths, births, school children, or votes, and on this platform to hazard a guess. This was a long step in advance of simple guessing, but is not to be compared for accuracy with a thorough count. To challenge a census with estimates is like trying to appeal from a higher to a lower court. Persons wishing to see in more detail the evidence on which the foregoing statements rest are referred to Census Bulletin No. 135.

THE PRESERVATION OF THE PRINTED RECORDS BY THE NATION.

In the *Report of the Librarian of Congress for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1901*, two subjects are of especial interest. First, the official announcement to the public, which has previously been made by circular letters and through the professional periodicals to librarians and others, that the bibliographical dream of generations

has come true,— that the national library is prepared to furnish at cost for all currently copyrighted books received by it, and others at as fast as catalogued, printed catalogue cards, not only to other libraries, but also to private individuals, who have the privilege of selecting titles and purchasing only such cards as are desired. Second, the account of the Division of Documents, of which Dr. Roland P. Falkner is chief, which shows that this division is to be administered in much the same spirit as the Department of Documents and Statistics of the Boston Public Library, which possesses the collection of the American Statistical Association, in that the Division of Documents is to have supervision of the works on economics, politics and sociology in general in the Library of Congress, as well as of the publications of the various national and state governments and municipal and other corporations. Some interesting tables show that the library contain about 20,000 American government documents, state and national, and about 40,000 foreign, besides 25,060 classified in the various chapters of the library. It is reported that, as was the case with the statistical collection in Boston, serious deficiencies are found as the result of the absence in the past of sufficiently persistent solicitations for publications which thus only can be procured. Government documents are now regularly exchanged with forty-seven foreign countries, of which a list is given is one of the appendices. It surprises one to read, however, that “no attempt is being made to secure complete files of all the documents of all the states” of the United States. It is to be deeply regretted, too, that not even in the national library is there to be found a complete file of the government publications of the United States. Let us hope that it will in time prove possible to gather an approximately complete collection, and let us be thankful that Congress is beginning to appreciate the value of its library to the country and is making some approach to adequate provision for its needs, so that future generations will be better provided with materials for their study of history and of society than is our own.

L. P. L.

MUNICIPAL STATISTICAL BULLETINS.

The appendix articles of the *Bulletin* of the Boston Statistics Department for the year of 1901 (Vol. III, Nos. 1 to 12) are as follows: No. 1, *Registration and Actual Vote, by Precincts, of*